



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 7 February 2008

Current Nationwide



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- According to the Associated Press, firefighters contained early Wednesday a massive fire that erupted at about 10 p.m. Tuesday at the Columbia Gulf Natural Gas pumping station in Macon County, Tennessee, after a line of severe storms moved through Tennessee. The company shut off the gas on both sides of the station. (See item [2](#))
- The Daily Journal reports that a man who fled from members of the National Guard near the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant in Lacey Township, New Jersey, prompted a massive search at the plant Tuesday afternoon. The individual was last seen on foot walking north on the Garden State Parkway at milepost 70.4. (See item [8](#))

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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## Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *February 6, ABC News* – (South) **Tornadoes rip across South.** More than 50 tornadoes ripped across southern U.S. states late Tuesday and early Wednesday, causing severe damage and killing dozens of people. Hundreds of thousands of people in the region were left without power due to the storms.  
Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/02/07/2156329.htm?section=justin>
2. *February 6, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Gas fire contained in Tennessee.** Firefighters managed early Wednesday to contain a massive fire that erupted at about 10

p.m. Tuesday at the Columbia Gulf Natural Gas pumping station in Macon County, Tennessee, after a line of severe storms moved through Tennessee. A Tennessee Emergency Management spokesman said that the flames from the station fire were “shooting 400, 500 feet in the air.” The mayor of Westmoreland said the fire was about seven miles away from his city and had spread to houses nearby. A spokeswoman for Columbia Gulf Transmission Co. said the company shut off the gas on both sides of the station, which is used to boost pressure along the gas line that runs from Louisiana to the West Virginia-Kentucky line. She said the station is not manned around the clock.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080206/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/gas\\_explosion;\\_ylt=Aire7OSUnNxOh3O33Qr6vS9G2ocA](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080206/ap_on_re_us/gas_explosion;_ylt=Aire7OSUnNxOh3O33Qr6vS9G2ocA)

3. *February 5, Utility Automation and Engineering T&D* – (National) **NREL selects 3TIER to conduct wind integration study.** 3TIER announced it was chosen by the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) to conduct the largest scale wind integration study ever undertaken. The Western Wind Integration Study (WWIS) will support federal and state initiatives to expand renewable energy capacity by helping utilities understand operational and cost impacts of wind power integration. After the study is completed in late spring 2008, results will be made publicly available online through a Web site developed by 3TIER and maintained by NREL. “We know that areas with good wind resources have the potential to supply up to 20 percent of the nation’s electricity consumption,” said NREL’s director of wind technology. “But historically, one of the largest problems with wind energy is the cost of integrating it into a regional system while maintaining power output reliability because it is an intermittent weather-dependent fuel source. Our goal is that with the information from the WWIS, many of those barriers to expanding wind power capacity in the western United States will go away.”

Source:

[http://uaelp.pennnet.com/display\\_article/319259/22/ARTCL/none/none/1/NREL-selects-3TIER-to-conduct-wind-integration-study/](http://uaelp.pennnet.com/display_article/319259/22/ARTCL/none/none/1/NREL-selects-3TIER-to-conduct-wind-integration-study/)

4. *February 5, KFVS 12 Cape Girardeau and Heartland News* – (Missouri) **Four injured in mine explosion.** Four people sustained burns after an explosion at the Fletcher Mine in Reynolds County, Missouri, Tuesday afternoon. The Reynolds County sheriff says it may be a few days before the cause of the explosion can be determined.

Source: <http://www.kfvs12.com/Global/story.asp?S=7826215&nav=8H3x3EMU>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

5. *February 6, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **Power outage causes a stink on Neville Island.** On Tuesday, a power outage at the Neville Chemical plant on Neville Island, Pennsylvania, resulted in a small release of hydrocarbon vapors into the air, but an Allegheny County Health Department official said there were no air quality concerns beyond a funky odor. About noon, a Health Department spokesman said, there was a power failure on Neville Island, which caused a reactor in the chemical plant to

overheat. The reactor, which produces resins, released a small quantity of petroleum-based hydrocarbons as a built-in safety mechanism to avoid an explosion. Local fire departments, hazardous materials workers, and a Health Department official responded to the scene, where a cloud had formed. The official said a few residents contacted the Health Department about a strange smell, and he advised them to open doors and windows to ventilate their homes, since the release posed no danger. A Neville Township Emergency Management coordinator said there were no injuries and no damage to the plant.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08037/855013-57.stm>

6. *February 5, El Dorado News Times* – (California) **Fire damages oxygen plant.** A fire at the El Dorado Chemical plant in California caused a lot of smoke but little danger Monday evening, according to plant officials. A plant manager said the fire broke out around 6:24 p.m. Monday in an oxygen plant at the facility. “That plant is computer-operated from a site in Longview, Texas,” he said, “and as soon as the fire was detected, the entire plant was shut down.” Units from the El Dorado Fire Department responded to the scene, as did the Union County Sheriff’s Office, and the fire was declared to be under control around 7:30 p.m. The official added that no one was injured in the incident, and there was no risk of explosion. He said that since the only product at the affected plant was oxygen, there were no air quality issues to be addressed. The plant will remain shut down while the cause of the fire is being investigated, he said.

Source: <http://www.eldoradonews.com/news/localnews/2008/02/05/fire-damages-oxygen-plant-74.php>

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

7. *February 6, Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Feds to boost oversight of nuclear plant.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) yesterday said it would step up oversight of the 1,174-megawatt Salem 1 nuclear unit in south Jersey because of recurring problems with its diesel generators, which supply backup power to the nuclear generating station. The unit is operated by Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG). In an unusual action, the NRC changed the plant’s performance assessment, downgrading it to “yellow” from “green” on the color-coded system it uses to evaluate safety issues. A green designation means very low safety issues; yellow indicates substantial safety issues. An NRC spokesman said, “At a minimum, we’ll do a team inspection, see what PSEG is doing to address the root causes of the problem and how they plan to resolve them.” A PSEG spokesman said it is possible the performance indicator could be changed back to “green” by the end of the first quarter, provided the company gives the NRC all the data it is seeking.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/business/ledger/index.ssf?/base/business-8/120227978382561.xml&coll=1>

8. *February 6, Daily Journal* – (New Jersey) **Suspicious man prompts massive search at nuke plant.** A person who fled from members of the National Guard near the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant in Lacey Township, New Jersey, was the subject of a massive

police search Tuesday afternoon. The individual initially was believed to be on the plant property, but a spokeswoman for the utility later said the sighting of the person was not on “owner-controlled property.” The incident began around 2 p.m., when the afternoon shift of the National Guard came on duty at the plant. Someone was discovered near the plant and was considered suspicious after fleeing on foot when confronted, authorities said. Lacey police responded; state police dispatched a helicopter and K-9 unit; and K-9 units from the Ocean County Sheriff’s Department and Waretown police were used. The individual was last seen on foot walking north on the Garden State Parkway at milepost 70.4, said a state police officer. There are 860 “owner-controlled acres” associated with the power plant property and a smaller area considered a “protected area” where there is fencing and members of the National Guard are posted, said the utility’s spokeswoman.

Source:

<http://www.thedailyjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080206/NEWS01/80206007>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

9. *February 5, Defense News* – (National) **Cost of U.S. Navy’s LCS rises again.** The price to buy each of the U.S. Navy’s first two Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) has crashed through the \$500 million barrier, and the final tab to deliver the ships is well over \$600 million apiece, according to service budget documents released February 4. Soaring cost growth has severely disrupted the program, which once envisioned the purchase of a series of relatively inexpensive \$220 million warships that would take about two years to build. Congress granted one ship in last year’s budget request, and the Navy is asking for two more in the 2009 budget, priced at \$460 million each – the amount of a cost cap imposed by lawmakers.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=3357981&C=america>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10. *February 5, Reuters* – (National) **SEC forms office to pay back wronged investors.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said on Tuesday it has created a new office in the agency to quickly distribute financial penalties to wronged investors. The Office of Collections and Distributions will be used to dole out more than \$5 billion the SEC has recovered from securities law violators, the agency said. “The Commission’s strong commitment to recovering money from wrongdoers and returning it to investors is amply demonstrated by the more than \$2 billion we distributed last year,” said the SEC chairman in a statement. The SEC has the authority to collect and distribute the funds due to the post-Enron Sarbanes-Oxley corporate reform laws of 2002. The SEC said it has used this authority to distribute more than \$3.5 billion to investors. It said the new office will help cut red tape and the cost of distributing the money.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/businessNews/idUSN0543785220080205>

## **Transportation Sector**

11. *February 6, Dothan Eagle* – (Alabama) **Dothan airport evacuated after reported pipe bomb.** Police evacuated Dothan Regional Airport in Alabama around 7 a.m. on Tuesday and reopened it around 9:30 a.m. Authorities with the FBI, the Dothan Police Department's bomb squad, the Dothan Fire Department, and the Airport police responded to a reported pipe bomb. A spokeswoman for the Dothan Regional Airport said police found the pipe propped up against a brick column outside the terminal of the airport. A spokesman for the Dothan Police Department said police exploded the pipe twice. It was not an explosive device, according to the Dothan Regional Airport director. "It was a machine part that looked very much like a pipe bomb," he said. "We think it's probably a part that went to a trailer hitch." Only one commercial flight was canceled, and only the commercial terminal closed, while the runway remained open for private and military training flights.

Source: [http://www.dothaneagle.com/gulfcoasteast/dea/local\\_news.apx.-content-articles-DEA-2008-02-06-0016.html](http://www.dothaneagle.com/gulfcoasteast/dea/local_news.apx.-content-articles-DEA-2008-02-06-0016.html)

12. *February 6, Transportation Security Administration* – (Ohio) **Ashtabula Port workers begin enrollment for Federal Port Security Credential.** On Wednesday, port workers, longshore workers, truckers, and others at the Port of Ashtabula began to enroll in the Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program. The program's goal is to ensure that any individual who has unescorted access to secure areas of port facilities and vessels has received a thorough background check and is not a security threat. Nationwide, more than 1 million workers with unescorted access to secure areas will apply for TWIC by the end of 2008. Ashtabula is the 63rd port to begin enrollment since the program began October 16. Ultimately, established fixed enrollment centers will be in place at 147 ports along with mobile enrollment centers at dozens of other locations as needed.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/iw/080206/0358135.html>

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

13. *February 6, Rocky Mount Telegram* – (North Carolina) **White powder forces school lockdown.** In North Carolina, white powder found in an envelope mailed to a middle school Tuesday afternoon prompted a lockdown of the school. A secretary at the school opened the letter that contained an unknown substance, police said. Preliminary tests revealed the substance was nontoxic. The incident came exactly one week after a letter with white powder was addressed to Baskerville Elementary School and opened by the principal in her office. Investigators in that case also ruled the substance nontoxic. The Rocky Mount police Captain said they are looking into a possible connection between the two Nash-Rocky Mount Public School incidents.

Source:

<http://www.rockymounttelegram.com/news/content/news/stories/2008/02/06/lockdown>.

[html](#)

14. *February 5, Sierra Vista Herald* – (Arizona) **Authorities investigate suspicious package at Sierra Vista post office, temporarily closing the facility to the public.** A suspicious package at the U.S. post office in Sierra Vista, Arizona, stopped service on Tuesday morning and into the afternoon. About 8:30 a.m., post office staff found a black duffle bag to be delivered to Fort Huachuca, which they considered suspicious. The fort bomb-dog unit told the post office it would not respond to investigate a specific suspicious parcel, only to a specific area to look for a suspicious parcel, a Sierra Vista police sergeant said. The post office then called Sierra Vista police, and the canine unit declined to have their dog check out the suspicious bag, citing that the dog is trained to be a drug-sniffing dog, not a bomb-sniffing dog. The FBI office in Sierra Vista was then contacted by city police, and they responded as well as did an Arizona Department of Public Safety bomb unit out of Tucson.

Source:

<http://www.svherald.com/articles/2008/02/05/news/doc47a8b8358b87e786982487.txt>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

15. *February 6, MidHudson News* – (New York) **Legislation increases food carrier safety precautions.** Legislation that makes the food supply safer by closing a loophole that exempts common carrier transportation firms from food safety precautions has passed in the New York State Assembly. Under current law, the state Department of Agriculture and Markets is limited from stopping common carriers from transporting food in conditions which may harm its quality, an assemblywoman said. For example, common carriers may transport food in the same trucks or containers used to transport chemicals such as those used in cleaning supplies. “Imagine boxes of vegetables being delivered with a leaking bottle of cleaning solution to our school cafeterias or restaurants. This legislation would increase our ability to protect against contamination by removing that risk and closing the loophole.” Violators would be subject to the same law enforcement measures and sanctions faced by any other violator of the state’s food safety laws.

Source: [http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/food\\_saf\\_bill-06Feb08.html](http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/food_saf_bill-06Feb08.html)

16. *February 5, Associated Press* – (National) **Toxin from fish causes illness in humans.** Several outbreaks of ciguatera fish poisoning have been confirmed in consumers who ate fish harvested in the northern Gulf of Mexico, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said Tuesday. The FDA said that fish such as grouper, snapper, amberjack, and barracuda represent the most significant threat to consumers. They feed on fish that have eaten toxic marine algae. The toxin is stable in the tissue of living fish and does them no harm. But larger carnivores have higher concentrations of the toxin in their tissues. As a result, the greatest risk of poisoning for humans comes from the largest fish. Symptoms of ciguatera poisoning include nausea, vomiting, vertigo, and joint pain. In the most serious cases, neurological problems can last for months or even years. Several outbreaks of the illness were confirmed in Washington, D.C., and St. Louis, Missouri, the FDA said. Overall, there have been at least 28 reported cases across the country,



with the first case being reported in late November. The fish linked to the illnesses were harvested near the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, an area of 56 square miles in the northwestern Gulf. The FDA recommends that processors not purchase fish harvested near the sanctuary.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080205/ap\\_on\\_he\\_me/fish\\_poisoning;\\_ylt=AmVDTKJLZN3pI4R\\_xypIvzus0NUE](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080205/ap_on_he_me/fish_poisoning;_ylt=AmVDTKJLZN3pI4R_xypIvzus0NUE)

17. *February 5, United Press International* – (National) **Gene halts fungal infection in grain crops.** U.S. scientists have found a type of gene in grain plants that halts infection by a disease-causing fungus that can destroy crops vital for human food supplies. Purdue University and U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers said their findings are the first to show the same biochemical process protects an entire plant family –grasses – from the fungal pathogen. The scientists said the naturally occurring disease resistance might be responsible for the survival of grains and other grasses during the past 60 million years. The senior author of the study said the research might lead to new resistance strategies against additional diseases in grasses and other plants. The research appears in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

Source:

[http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Science/2008/02/05/gene\\_halts\\_fungal\\_infection\\_in\\_grain\\_crops/8903/](http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Science/2008/02/05/gene_halts_fungal_infection_in_grain_crops/8903/)

18. *February 5, Associated Press* – (California; National) **Feds suspend operations at Calif. meat company.** Federal officials said Tuesday they had suspended operations at Chino, California, Westland Meat Company, which is accused of mistreating cattle. The U.S. Department of Agriculture said the suspension will remain in effect until “written corrective actions” are submitted that verify animals have been treated humanely. The agency took action after a video surfaced last week that showed workers brutalizing sick and crippled cows at the Chino facility. The video prompted Westland Meat to voluntarily stop operations last Friday, while two major hamburger chains and dozens of school districts around the nation banned its meat.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/114/story/690666.html>

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## **Water Sector**

19. *February 6, New York Times* – (Alabama; Florida; Georgia) **Georgia loses federal case in a dispute about water.** Georgia lost a major court fight in the Southern battle over water rights on Tuesday when a federal appellate-court panel said the state could not withdraw as much water as it had planned from an Atlanta-area reservoir. The victory went to Alabama and Florida, which had contended that Georgia’s plan would siphon off water that should flow downstream to their consumers. The two states had brought the appellate suit to undo an agreement between Georgia and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that would have given Georgia rights to use nearly a quarter of the water in Lake Sidney Lanier, which supplies drinking water to much of northern Georgia. In the ruling, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia

Circuit said the agreement was void because the two parties had not first obtained Congressional approval. Under federal law, the Corps must obtain such approval before making “major structural or operational” changes to the management of its federal reservoirs. Governors from the three states have been in water-sharing talks brokered by the interior secretary and had pledged to reach an agreement by February 15. Now experts say those talks will almost certainly be prolonged or postponed. Alabama and Florida – which depend on water from Lake Lanier for power generation, industry, recreation, and commercial fishing – argued Georgia had no legal right to the reservoir, which was originally built for hydropower. It was unclear late Tuesday whether Georgia would appeal the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/06/us/06water.html>

20. *February 4, Times-Mail* – (Indiana) **City is under IDEM order to fix plant.** For the past two years, the city of Mitchell’s water treatment system has been riddled with violations for not meeting water quality standards set by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The problem, according to Midwestern Engineers of Loogootee, is that mandatory water testing has pointed to an increased amount of trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids in the city’s drinking water. Those organic compounds, which are the byproducts of adding chlorine to the drinking water, could increase a person’s risk of getting cancer. “I believe the major problem is the pumps, because they are not working consistently,” the Water and Sewer superintendent said. “The pumps in there are clear water pumps, and we’re not pumping clear water.”

Source: <http://www.tmnews.com/stories/2008/02/04/news.nw-143031.tms>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

21. *February 6, Arizona Daily Star and Associated Press* – (Arizona) **‘There’s no haven’ from flu in Arizona.** Following reports of a decided upswing in flu cases across the state, state health officials have declared that Arizona is experiencing a widespread influenza outbreak, the highest designation for the illness. State Department of Health Services officials say the number of reported flu cases has more than doubled in some counties in the past week, bringing the wintertime sickness to every corner of the state. The official number of flu cases confirmed by lab tests sits at 954 statewide, but the vast majority of cases are never confirmed through testing. The real toll is being felt in hospitals and schools, which are seeing thousands of coughing, sneezing, and feverish people. To date, 118 cases of flu have been confirmed – by both lab and physician reports – in Pima County, as well as three outbreaks of winter vomiting disease, or norovirus. Flu was one of the factors sending a huge volume of patients to Tucson’s largest emergency room at Tucson Medical Center in January. Patient volume there easily topped 9,000 last month – about 2,000 more than seen in an average month. Hospitals in metropolitan Phoenix are juggling to keep beds open, as that area tallies the state’s biggest outbreak, with nearly 500 reported cases. At least 11 other states are reporting widespread flu outbreaks.

Source: <http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/223790>



22. *February 6, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **‘Mysterious’ bird flu baffles Indonesian scientists.** Scientists and officials said they were baffled by the “mysterious” behavior of the bird flu virus in Indonesia, which has already claimed nine lives in the country this year. Indonesia has reported 126 cases of H5N1 bird flu – 103 of them fatal – since 2005. This year’s victims have all come from the capital Jakarta and its satellite cities. Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture’s Bird Flu Control Unit said that the risk factors for human infection remained unclear after studies were conducted around victims’ homes. “The behavior (of the virus in Indonesia) is mysterious and we are competing with the dynamics of the virus. There needs to be deeper study on why there are more cases in humans, what are the risk factors... so we can cut the chain of infection to humans,” said an official. Meanwhile, early partial results of a study conducted by the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) bird flu program in Indonesia in traditional markets in western Java – which covers Jakarta and its surrounding area – showed a high level of penetration by the virus. About half of all markets tested were positive for the virus, said the leader of the FAO program.
- Source: <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5jc32ZawRXIdCMbTiSHPrEfu8RXpQ>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

23. *February 6, Daily of the University of Washington* – (Washington) **Chemical spill in Johnson Hall forces evacuation.** A chemical spill in Johnson Hall at the University of Washington yesterday afternoon brought a swarm of fire trucks and a 13-person hazardous materials unit to contain the incident, and prevented students from entering the building for an hour. A person working in Laboratory 21 reported that he had spilled five milliliters of respiratory irritant hydrofluoric acid, but that he had mostly contained the leak himself. Firefighters, police, and hazardous materials personnel were dispatched at 1:20 p.m. as a precaution. During the course of a routine procedure that resulted in an unexpected reaction, “[he] got some of the acid on himself and some outside of the fume hood,” said the deputy chief of operations for the Seattle Fire Department.
- Source: <http://thedaily.washington.edu/2008/2/6/chemical-spill-johnson-hall-forces-evacuation/>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

24. *February 6, Media-Newswire.com* – (National) **FEMA releases on-line training course for the National Response Framework.** According to its press release today, “The Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today released the on-line IS-800.B National Response Framework (NRF), An Introduction training course. The NRF, which focuses on response and short-term recovery, articulates the doctrine, principles, and architecture by which our nation prepares for and responds to all-hazard disasters across all levels of government and all sectors of communities.” According to the release, the course is “intended for

government executives, private-sector and nongovernmental organization (NGO) leaders, and emergency management practitioners. This includes senior elected and appointed leaders, such as Federal department or agency heads, State Governors, mayors, tribal leaders, and city or county officials – those who have a responsibility to provide for effective response. Senior leaders, emergency management practitioners, disaster workers, and first responders who have previously completed IS-800 or IS-800A are not required to complete IS-800B as part of NIMS compliance activities. However, FEMA strongly urges emergency management professionals across the nation to complete this new independent study course on the NRF. Additional information on the NRF can be obtained from the NRF Resource Center at [www.fema.gov/nrf](http://www.fema.gov/nrf).”  
Source: [http://media-newswire.com/release\\_1060373.html](http://media-newswire.com/release_1060373.html)

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## **Information Technology**

25. *February 5, InfoWorld* – (International) **Remote worker security still lax.** Despite having a greater awareness of the security risks posed by careless computing habits and personal Internet activity carried out on corporate laptops, many remote workers continue to do things that imperil the safety of themselves and their employers, according to a new report from Cisco. As part of its annual study on the security awareness and online behavior of remote workers – based on interviews with 2,000 telecommuters carried out by researchers from InsightExpress – Cisco experts said that people appear to have acquired a false sense of security when it comes to the use of their company-issued computers and other corporate IT assets. Despite the fact that the IT security community has done a much better job in recent years of keeping people informed of the latest and greatest malware attacks and social engineering schemes, remote workers keep falling for the same types of tricks as they always have – in part because they believe that they are now protected by more advanced security technologies, said a special assistant to the CTO at Cisco. In fact, in just one year’s time, the number of respondents to the survey who expressed a belief that the Internet is “getting safer” increased from 48 percent 12 months ago to more than 56 percent in 2008. The trend was particularly evident in some parts of the world where Internet use is growing the fastest, and where people believe that their governments are going to greater lengths to protect individual users, such as Brazil (71 percent), India (68 percent), and China (64 percent). By using their company-issued devices to head to corners of the Internet where attacks are more prevalent – such as on e-commerce sites, social-networking portals, and independent Web properties – workers are putting their employers at risk of exploit by malware and other threats, the expert said.  
Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/infoworld/20080205/tc\\_infoworld/95112\\_3](http://news.yahoo.com/s/infoworld/20080205/tc_infoworld/95112_3)

26. *February 5, Computerworld* – (International) **Skype plugs critical cross-zone scripting hole.** Skype Ltd. today patched a critical vulnerability that forced it to dump several features from its VoIP and chat software to prevent attackers from hijacking Windows PCs. In a security advisory issued Tuesday, Skype said it fixed the underlying flaw publicized by an Israeli researcher nearly three weeks ago. The vulnerability, which was called a cross-zone scripting bug, could be exploited with rigged video files that

leveraged a security flaw in the way Skype rendered HTML. At root, the researcher said, was the fact that Skype, which uses Internet Explorer's Web control to handle internal and external HTML pages, ran the control in a low-security mode. After he and others posted proof-of-concept code for the exploit, Skype temporarily plugged the hole by first ditching connections to the Dailymotion video-sharing service. Six days later, it severed the line to Metacafe, another partner that provides video-sharing services, when an even more serious exploit was pointed out. Last week, the researcher spotted yet another Skype problem, this time in the SkypeFind command, which lets users recommend businesses to others and write reviews of those businesses. In its security alert today, Skype claimed that all three of the exploits – the two related to Dailymotion and Metacafe and the third connected to SkypeFind – had been quashed by the patched Skype, which is now available for download. Users can download the patched Skype – Version 3.6.0.248 for Windows – from the service's Web site. Existing Skype users can update by using the software's "Check for Updates" command under the Help menu.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9061089&source=rss\\_topic15](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9061089&source=rss_topic15)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## Communications Sector

27. *February 6, Computerworld* – (International) **Study: Mobile call quality still has a way to go.** A study of the voice quality experienced on 630 million live mobile phone calls conducted in 12 countries last year showed that 39 percent of the calls did not meet the industry's minimum standard for voice quality. Mobile voice quality was much better in the U.S. and Europe, where just 23 percent of calls fell below the industry minimum, according to a study by Ditech Networks Inc., a telecommunications equipment supplier based in California. But the quality was much worse in rapid-growth markets such as India and South America, where 59 percent of mobile calls fell below the industry minimum. The study is the biggest of its kind ever conducted. It was done with the cooperation of 16 mobile network carriers in 12 countries over periods of up to six weeks in 2007, Ditech officials said. Three major U.S. carriers participated, although Ditech would not disclose their names. Ditech's study helped the carriers learn that up to half the calls in some regions were adversely affected by ambient noise in the caller's environment. Ambient noise could be a passing motorcycle or the sounds of a nearby crowd, a representative said. Echo, often caused by the mobile handsets, was a problem in as many as 11 percent of all calls in some regions, he said. And "voice level mismatch" was a problem on up to 28 percent of all calls in some regions. Voice level mismatch is when a caller seems to be speaking too loudly or too softly.

Source:

<http://feeds.computerworld.com/~r/Computerworld/Mobile/Wireless/News/~3/230241529/article.do>

28. *February 5, BBC News* – (International) **Work begins to repair severed net.** Work has begun to repair two damaged internet cables in the Mediterranean Sea that were severed last week. Flag Telecom, one of the firms responsible for the cables, says it will take about a week to be fixed. The break has caused disruption to net services in the Middle East and India. The cause is still not known. Repairs will involve a team of about 50 people, including navigation experts and cable engineers, said Flag Telecom. The ship that will repair the first severed cable is already in place, with repairs underway, while the second vessel is expected to begin work on Tuesday. “It will be a highly technical job and should take a week to complete,” a spokesperson for Flag Telecom told the BBC News website. The cause of the damage has not been officially confirmed, but there have been reports that the breaks were related to a tanker dragging its anchor along the sea bed. However, the Egyptian communications ministry has denied any ships were in the area at the time of the break.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/technology/7228315.stm>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

29. *February 6, CNN* – (South) **Severe weather, tornadoes kill 52 across South.** Violent storms and tornadoes killed at least 52 people and injured more than 100 others across the mid-South Tuesday night and early Wednesday, authorities said. The storms ripped apart homes and a shopping mall, trapped residents of university dorms, and left a retirement home in debris. To the east, the storms yanked the roof off a hangar at Memphis International Airport, the National Weather Service said. FedEx, which is based in Memphis, reported damage to a portion of a roof on a firehouse, but said its daily flights were not affected. Company officials believe a tornado hit a compressor station for the Columbia Gulf Transmission company in Hartsville, Tennessee, setting off a natural gas fire. The station was damaged significantly, but there were no reports of injuries or fatalities, said a Columbia spokesman. “We would not have had any employees there [overnight].” The blaze was put out early Wednesday morning, he said. In the city of Atkins, Arkansas, the storms overturned trucks and vehicles along Interstate 40, closing the highway briefly.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/weather/02/06/tornadoes/index.html>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

30. *February 5, Peninsula Daily News* – (Washington) **Olympic National Park damage in the millions.** In Washington, repair of damage to roads and trails from the December 3 storm will cost probably \$5 million, said an Olympic National Park spokeswoman, although that is a preliminary estimate. Damage includes three severely damaged sites

along Hurricane Ridge Road, some of the access roads near Crescent Lake, “a huge amount of damage in the Quinault Valley,” and areas of Staircase, near the southern end of the park. A request was submitted Monday for \$1 million from the Federal Highway Administration to cover emergency repairs of federally owned roads. An additional \$1 million in repairs will be needed for campgrounds, picnic tables, and some trails.  
Source: <http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20080206/NEWS/802060304>

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## **Dams Sector**

31. *February 5, KITV 4 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **Kauai officials concerned about levee erosion.** Kauai’s Civil Defense officials said they are concerned about the levees in the Hanapepe River and Waimea. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers inspected two levees and a few reservoirs on Kauai on Monday after a weekend of heavy, consistent rain. Inspectors were alarmed when they discovered erosion at the Hanapepe levee. Hours of rainfall and gushing water took a toll on those levees. If the rain continues, it could undermine the levees and endanger nearby communities, officials said.  
Source: <http://www.kitv.com/news/15224207/detail.html>

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